Subject Pocahontas County History
Chapter 6 Religion

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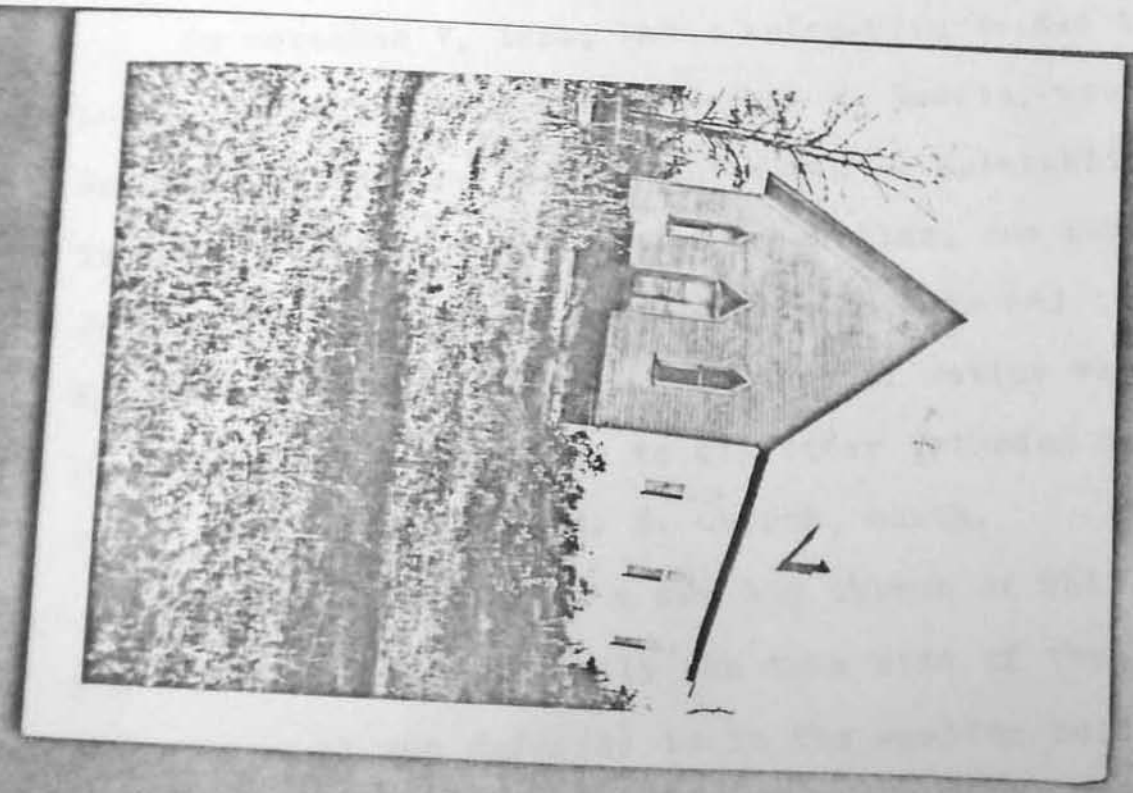

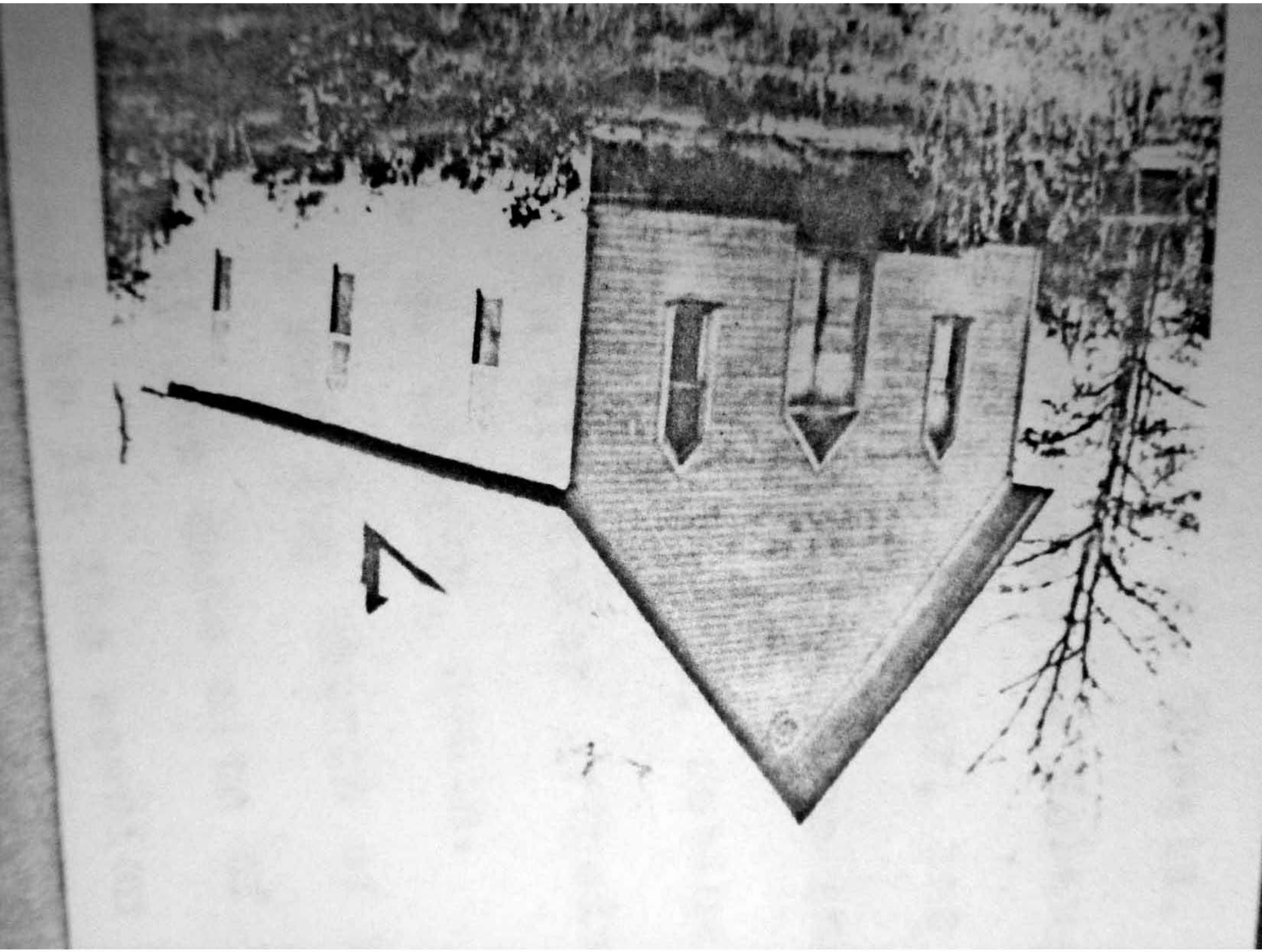

Juanita S. Dilley
Pocahontas County
Chapter 6, Religion
February 3, 1941

McLAUGHLIN M.E.CHURCH, SOUTH--One mile from Cass

The first church in this community was an old log building near the site of the present church. It had been erected some time prior to the Civil War, no one remembers the exact date and no deed can be found. Mrs. Caroline Tacy, who is now 90 years old says that when she was a girl, this old building was there and was used by the Presbyterians and the Methodists as a place of preaching. It was also used for school purposes, as Mrs. Tacy went to school there. This old church was called West Union church. It was never entirely completed, and was built with a large shed to it.

On November 7, 1884, David McLaughlin deeded to the Trustees Stephen H. Barnett, George M. Sheets, George D. McLaughlin, John M. Wilfong and James L. McLaughlin, for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar, one acre and 20 poles of land including West Union Church to have and to hold with its appurtenances, to be used as a place of Devine worship of the M. E. Church, South, open to all other orthodox denominations when not in use bt the M. E. Church, South.

It was at this time a new log church of white pine logs was built on almost exactly the same site of the present church. For a time it was referred to in the session books as Back Alleghaney appointment, but was later changed to McLaughlin church. This log church was used from 1884 until the present church was built around 1907, under the pastorate of Rev. H. Q. Burr who served this circuit from 1907 to 1911.

The first old church was not a regular appointment on any circuit but was just used by circuit riders who were riding through, but the next log church became an appointment on the Greenbank circuit. The members of this church are as follows: Benjamin Tallman, Virginia McLaughlin, Ida Curry, Margaret Wilfong, Nancy Gum, Catherine Wilfong, Mary Geiger, Nettie Arbogast, George M. Sheets, Margaret Geiger, Howard Meeks, Alice Meeks, Sue Barnett, Mollie Barnett, Virgie Barnett, Mary Tacy, Virdie Sheets, Carrie Sheets, W. F. Kerr, Daniel Wilfong, Peter Collins(this is the C. P. Collins mentioned so often in the conference records), Sallie Collins, Charles Curry, Rachel Grogg, Myrtle Curry, Elixabeth McLaughlin, Allen Burner, Virginia Burner, Sarah Burner, Elizabeth Lizzie Gum, Eliza Ray, George N. McLaughlin, Otis McLaughlin, Sallie McLaughlin, Warwick Simmons, Georgie Simmons, Virginia Simmons, David McLaughlin, Jane McLaughlin, Uzilla Tallman, Andrew Ratliff, and Nancy Wanless.

There has been no preaching services at this church for the past four years. The class is small and few take an interest in it. There is some talk of again organizing a class here and making it a regular appointment, but that waits to be seen. The Trustees are Ward McLaughlin, Odis McLaughlin and G. A. Sheets.

From-- Church Records
Rev. Q. Arbogast
Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Sheet
Mrs Caroline Tacy
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